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Remarks

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 18, 2006. An RCE is being filed herewith. Claims 1-7 remain for consideration.

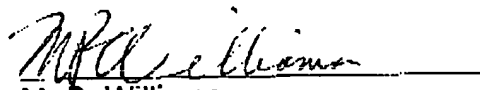
Claims 1, 3 and 5-7 are rejected as anticipated by Kumata et al as further evidenced by Hahn. The issue is whether the independent claims 1, 3 and 7 are patentable over Kumata et al.

In a telephone interview conducted by the Examiner with Supervisor Ryan on June 8, 2006, it was agreed that if the term "directly" were inserted before the word "contacting", these claims would be patentable over Kumata et al and Hahn. However, a further search would be necessary. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3 and 5-7 over Kumata et al and Hahn is respectfully requested.

5,6. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected as claim 1 in further view of Hahn. These claims depend from claim 1 which is patentable over Kumata et al. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2 and 4 over Kumata et al and Hahn is respectfully requested.

9. Should the foregoing not be persuasive in any manner whatsoever, a telephone call to explain the situation is most earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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